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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-sixth session
Agenda items 74 and 123
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE
QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING
OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS
OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED
NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith a document entitled "Shaping the peace: The United Nations in the 1990s", containing proposals by the five Nordic Governments for further consideration within the United Nations (see annex).

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 74 and 123, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Bent HAAKONSEN
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Denmark to the United Nations

(Signed) Wilhelm BREITENSTEIN
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Finland to the United Nations

(Signed) Helgi GISLASON
Acting Permanent Representative
of Iceland to the United Nations

(Signed) Martin HUSLID
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Norway to the United Nations

(Signed) Jan ELIASSON
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of
Sweden to the United Nations

ANNEX

Shaping the peace: The United Nations in the 1990s

The end of the Cold War has provided an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen the United Nations. In the new international climate of cooperation, the Security Council has begun to fulfil more effectively its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The necessary political conditions now seem to prevail for the United Nations to be able truly to live up to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

Lasting peace and security can best be achieved when the necessary economic, social and environmental conditions are in place, as well as when democracy and respect for human rights are at hand everywhere. The Nordic countries have presented their views on peace-building in many different bodies of the United Nations.

In the following, the Nordic countries will focus on certain aspects of the role of the United Nations in peace-making and peace-keeping. The proposals offered below may be viewed in the light of the 1983 Nordic report on the strengthening of the United Nations (A/38/271-S/15830, annex) and subsequent Nordic submissions, particularly in the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations.

It is the responsibility of Member States to use fully the existing United Nations machinery for peace-making and peace-keeping and, when necessary, to adapt it to ensure effective support to the Security Council and the Secretary-General in carrying out their respective tasks.

Recent experience has demonstrated the crucial role of the United Nations in the settlement of regional conflicts and in international action of enforcement. This experience may also provide useful guidance on how to shape the United Nations into an even more effective tool for the maintenance of international peace and security, not least in the area of conflict prevention.

The time should now be ripe to transform some of the recurrent ideas in the international debate into concrete proposals on possible elements of an integrated United Nations approach to peace-making, peace-keeping and, as a last resort, enforcement action.

In the opinion of the Nordic Governments, the following proposals merit further elaboration with a view to their prompt realization:

(a) The Security Council should consider initiating anticipatory discussions of potential conflicts and preventive measures;

(b) The Secretary-General should be provided with the necessary resources to support his role in bringing situations threatening international peace and security to the attention of the Security Council, under Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations. This would, inter alia, entail enhanced Secretariat capabilities to collect and analyse data and to monitor conflicts, increased use of the existing field organization, as well as better information-sharing by Member States, in particular the permanent members of the Security Council;

(c) A system for registration and monitoring of international arms transfers under the auspices of the United Nations should be created as soon as possible. Major recipient and supplier countries, including the permanent members of the Security Council, should participate in such a system from the outset;

(d) A practice should be established for the Security Council or the Secretary-General to send fact-finding missions to areas of potential conflict as a matter of routine, in accordance with the principles laid down in the draft Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security;

(e) Parties to a conflict should use more frequently the International Court of Justice for settling their disputes. Member States should be urged to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. Increased use should be made of the possibility to request the advisory opinion of the Court on legal issues in order to prevent or defuse conflicts;

(f) The United Nations should be provided with an enhanced capabiity to respond, in accordance with agreed criteria and procedures, to requests by Member States for electoral assistance in order to facilitate peaceful transition to democracy;

(g) Political support and adequate resources should be given to the Secretary-General to enable him, in cooperation with the Security Council, to engage effectively in negotiation, mediation, the use of good offices and other forms of peace-making and preventive diplomacy;

(h) The early launching of United Nations peace-keeping operations as a deterrent to potential armed conflicts should be considered;

(i) Action should be taken to ensure adequate financing for United Nations peace-keeping operations, based on the principle of collective responsibility. Arrangements should be made for the start-up phase of new operations, for example, through the establishment of a special peace-keeping start-up fund. Ongoing efforts to streamline and make the present system of peace-keeping operations more efficient and cost-effective should be encouraged;

(j) The capacity of the United Nations system to mount combined operations of peace-making and humanitarian assistance should be strengthened. Furthermore, the readiness should be increased to consider, on a case-by-case basis and with due regard to the Charter, the launching on humanitarian grounds of actions to rectify gross violations of human rights;

(k) The Security Council should consider with determination the use of warnings and sanctions against parties that are patently unwilling to solve peacefully conflicts that threaten international peace and security. In order to improve its readiness to act in this respect, the Security Council should consider initiating a study on the effectiveness of different types of sanctions. In this context, ways and means of compensating third countries that find themselves confronted with special economic problems as a result of such sanctions should be studied;

(l) The modalities of undertaking enforcement actions as a last resort, including the employment of military force, should be clarified. The organizational set-up for military operations, the chain of command and mechanisms for coordination between Member States, including the role of the Military Staff Committee, should be examined closely.

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CESSATION OF ALL NUCLEAR-TEST EXPLOSIONS
URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 11 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made by the President of the USSR, M. S. Gorbachev, on Soviet television on 5 October 1991.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 51, 53, 60 and 62, and as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yu. VORONTSOV

ANNEX

Dear Compatriots,

A week ago, the President of the United States, George Bush, put forward an important initiative on nuclear weapons.

We see in this initiative the confirmation that new thinking has received wide support in the international community. George Bush's proposals are a fitting continuation of the work begun at Reykjavik. That is my basic assessment. I know that Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the other republics share this opinion.

In this statement I shall announce the steps we are taking and the proposals we are making in response.

First. The following actions will be taken with regard to tactical nuclear weapons:

- All nuclear artillery ammunition and nuclear warheads for tactical missiles will be destroyed;

- Nuclear warheads of anti-aircraft missiles will be removed from the army and stored in central bases. Part of them will be destroyed. All nuclear mines will be destroyed;

- All tactical nuclear weapons will be removed from surface ships and multi-purpose submarines. These weapons, as well as weapons from ground-based naval aviation will be placed in central storage areas. Part of them will be destroyed.

Thus, the Soviet Union and the United States are taking radical measures on a reciprocal basis leading to the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons.

Moreover, we propose that the United States should on a reciprocal basis completely eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons from its naval forces. Also on a reciprocal basis, we could remove from active units of forward-based (tactical) aviation all nuclear ammunition (bombs and aircraft missiles) and store them in centralized bases.

The USSR calls on the other nuclear Powers to join in these far-reaching Soviet-United States measures with regard to tactical nuclear weapons.

Second. Like the United States President, I am in favour of the earliest possible ratification of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons. This issue will be discussed at the first session of the reconstituted Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Taking into account the unilateral steps on strategic offensive weapons announced by George Bush, we shall take the following measures:

- Our heavy bombers, like those of the United States, will be taken off alert and their nuclear weapons will be stored;

- Work will be halted on the new modified short-range missile for Soviet heavy bombers;

- The Soviet Union will halt work on a mobile small intercontinental ballistic missile;

- Plans to build new launchers for intercontinental ballistic missiles on railway cars and to modernize those missiles will be abandoned. Thus, the number of our mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple individually targeted warheads will not increase;

- All our intercontinental ballistic missiles on railway cars will be returned to their permanent storage sites;

- As a step in response, we shall remove from day-to-day alert status 503 intercontinental ballistic missiles, including 134 intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple individually-targeted warheads;

- We have already removed from active service three nuclear missile submarines with 44 launchers for submarine-based ballistic missiles and three more submarines with 48 launchers are now being removed.

Third. We have decided to make deeper cuts in our strategic offensive weapons than are envisaged in the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Weapons. As a result, at the end of the seven-year period, the remaining number of nuclear warheads in our possession will be 5,000 instead of the 6,000 envisaged under the Treaty. We would of course welcome reciprocal steps by the United States.

We propose to the United States that immediately after the ratification of the Treaty, intensive negotiations should be begun on further radical reductions in strategic offensive weapons by approximately half.

We are ready to discuss United States proposals on non-nuclear anti-aircraft systems.

We propose that we examine with the United States the possibility of creating joint systems with ground- and space-based elements to avert nuclear missile attacks.

Fourth. We declare an immediate one-year unilateral moratorium on nuclear-weapons tests. We hope other nuclear Powers will follow our example. This will open the way to the earliest possible and complete cessation of nuclear testing.

We are in favour of reaching an agreement with the United States on a controlled cessation of the production of all fissionable materials for weapons.

Fifth. We are ready to begin a detailed dialogue with the United States on the development of safe and ecologically clean technologies to store and transport nuclear warheads and methods of utilizing nuclear explosive devices and increasing nuclear safety.

To increase the reliability of nuclear-arms control we are placing all strategic nuclear weapons under single control and including all strategic defence systems in a single arm of the armed services.

Sixth. We hope that eventually the other nuclear Powers will actively join in the efforts of the USSR and the United States.

I believe the time has come for a joint statement by all the nuclear Powers renouncing a first nuclear strike. The USSR has long firmly adhered to this principle.

I am convinced that a similar step by the American side would have an enormous impact.

Seventh. We welcome the plans by the United States Administration to reduce its armed forces by 500,000 in the immediate future. On our side we intend to reduce our armed forces by 700,000.

In conclusion, I wish to stress the following: by acting in this way - unilaterally, bilaterally and through negotiations, we are decisively advancing the disarmament process and approaching the goal proclaimed at the beginning of 1986 - a nuclear-free, safer and more stable world.

The Governments, experts and departments will have much to do. The question is one of a new stage in one of the main trends of international development.

The question of a new Soviet-US summit meeting naturally arises. I have just had a conversation with the United States President, George Bush, and told him about the steps we are taking in response to his initiative. We had a good discussion. The President of the United States made a positive assessment of our proposals and expressed satisfaction with our approach to solving key problems of world politics.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 22 November 1988, at its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism". In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General "to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism".

2. It will be recalled that the General Assembly had acted upon the related recommendation contained in the Final Document adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Nicosia from 7 to 10 September 1988 (A/43/667-S/20212, annex, sect. I, para. 239).

3. On 31 January 1989, the Secretary-General transmitted the text of resolution 43/47 to all States and organizations of the United Nations system and invited their suggestions in connection with the preparation of the report requested of him.

4. Replies received from 16 Member States, one non-Member State and three organizations from within the United Nations system were published in the report of the Secretary-General (A/44/800).

5. In his report, the Secretary-General had noted recent actions taken by the international community in support of resolution 43/47. At the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989 (A/44/551), members had expressed once again their desire to contribute effectively to the carrying out of a United Nations plan of action for the implementation of the Decade and had decided to assign the Coordinating Bureau the task of developing a Non-Aligned Movement work plan and of creating a Non-Aligned Movement work group. Furthermore, States members of the Organization of American States had adopted a resolution on the International Decade committing their organization to participating fully in the activities to be conducted by the United Nations during the Decade.

6. In its decision 44/429 of 11 December 1989, the General Assembly took note of the Secretary-General's report (A/44/800) and recommended that he should request those States and organizations of the United Nations system which had not yet done so to reply not later than 1 April 1990 to his communication of 31 January 1989, and that he should invite them once again to submit suggestions so that they might be taken into account in the final report to be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

7. Replies received from 14 Member States, one organization from within the United Nations system and one intergovernmental organization were published in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/624).

8. In its decision 45/410 of 20 November 1990, the General Assembly took note of the interim reports of the Secretary-General (A/44/800 and A/45/624) and recommended once again that the Secretary-General should request those States and organizations of the United Nations system which had not yet done so to reply to his letter of 31 January 1989 and subsequent communications, not later than 1 April 1991.

9. On 3 October 1991, the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations, current Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, transmitted to the Secretary-General the report of the Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization, which had been adopted by the Tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries held at Accra from 2 to 7 September 1991.

10. Replies received from Member States are reproduced in section II of the present report. The text of the above-mentioned report is contained in the reply from Yugoslavia.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

BOLIVIA

[Original: Spanish]

[5 July 1991]

1. The Government of the Republic of Bolivia is of the view that the struggle for peace, freedom, independence, human rights and the eradication of colonialism in all its forms is a principle that should be observed by all the nations which comprise the international system. It therefore condemns all forms of exploitation of the human and natural resources in those few Territories that are still under a colonial regime, and reaffirms the legitimate right of such Territories to enjoy, through self-determination, the exercise of their full sovereignty.

2. The Government of Bolivia notes with satisfaction that one of the principal achievements of the United Nations has been its key role in bringing into the international community many of those nations which had been deprived of their sovereign rights and therefore suffered the limitations of dependency and the lack of full legal representation reflecting their ethnic roots, their culture and the personality of their peoples. The solution to the problem of decolonization and any action plan that is elaborated to achieve that objective should therefore accord with and take inspiration from General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and other relevant resolutions, which are in keeping with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. The remarkable growth experienced by our Organization has been due largely to the fact that it has served as the bridge between the past and the future of these peoples. The presence of the new States has consolidated the

universal vocation of the Organization and has enriched it by enhancing its international range.

4. Bolivia supported General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", with the aim of promoting the search for new mechanisms of international scope that would permit the application of the principles and norms of the United Nations in this area. It takes this opportunity to reiterate that support and to express its most fervent hope that at the conclusion of the Decade we shall have completed the task which we set for ourselves on 14 December 1960 and that no vestige whatsoever of colonialism will remain upon the face of the earth.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

[Original: English]

[26 June 1991]

1. In view of the rapidly changing political atmosphere at the international level, General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Along the same line of thought, the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade in September 1989, also demanded the immediate and complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

2. The customary definition of "colonialism" by the United Nations does not encompass the whole phenomenon of colonialism and its various patterns world wide; none the less, in the framework of the United Nations system, there are still 18 Territories under the colonial rule of the administering Powers. The process of the complete elimination of the remnants of colonialism in Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as other unlisted Territories should be designed with the following points in mind:

(a) To define clearly and objectively colonialism as a living concept of the modern age. In our view, colonialism requires a broader definition to include all forms of racism and occupation. Such a broader definition would consequently require a reconsideration of the work of the United Nations;

(b) To shed light on the concept of self-determination and its various interpretations;

(c) To help create political and economic conditions necessary for the people of colonial Territories to speed up the process of self-determination;

(d) To design a mechanism whereby new States will be guaranteed resources, support and genuine international solidarity, particularly during the early stages of their independence;

(e) To formulate effective and practical measures to encourage the administering Powers to cooperate with the United Nations renewed efforts for the decolonization process under Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations.

3. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that if the Decade is to achieve its goal of eradicating the scourge of colonialism, the various organs of the United Nations, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, and the States Members of the Organization, will have to play a more active and concerted role. Moreover, priority measures should include the issuance of an appeal by the United Nations to present administering Powers to provide a realistic timetable for each of their respective colonial Territories for the application of the Declaration and the holding of a referendum for self-determination in accordance with the principles and practices of the United Nations.

4. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples itself, needs to play a more dynamic role in overseeing the process of decolonization in these Territories. The Committee should carry out its tasks in a constructive manner and in cooperation with the administering Powers, taking into account factors such as lack of political awareness, economic dependence, changes in demographic patterns, military interest, environmental security and other problems of those Territories. Intensive and specific efforts need to be made for the dissemination of information on the Committee's findings, the political evolution in the Territories and the views of the international community.

5. To this end, the Department of Public Information should play an important role by establishing centres in the Territories to collect and disseminate reliable information. Visiting missions to each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should be arranged as close as practical to the onset of the Decade.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

[Original: Arabic]

[3 April 1991]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic, proceeding from the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in implementation of the Organization's continuous resolutions for the elimination of colonialism, strongly supports the Organization's speedy efforts to eliminate colonialism definitively. It regards as a positive step the declaration by the General Assembly at its forty-third session of the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (resolution 43/47). The Syrian Arab Republic, which continues its effective participation in the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

and which is a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and also to the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, fully supports the implementation of the goals of this Decade and has long adhered to all United Nations resolutions on this subject and also to the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, and the plan of activities for the period 1990-1993 to combat racism and racial discrimination (resolution 42/47). The Syrian Government believes that all forms and phenomena of colonialism are totally contrary to the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and constitute a grave threat to international peace and security. It has always participated in international efforts against racism and has constantly supported the struggle of the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America to free themselves and enjoy the right to self-determination.

2. The ending and eradication of colonialism is regarded as a basic prerequisite for the achievement of a world governed by the principles of peace, cooperation and freedom. Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic calls upon the international community to intensify efforts to support a halt to the Israeli occupation of the Arab Territories, to grant the Palestinian people its right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent State and to implement United Nations resolutions, which would help to bring stability to the Middle East region and establish peace there. The Government also supports the right of the people of South Africa to self-determination and the achievement of full independence and condemns all the racist policies applied by the Pretoria Government against this oppressed people. It stresses the importance of adopting effective measures to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination, racism, colonialism and alien occupation remaining in the world.

YUGOSLAVIA*

[Original: English]

[3 October 1991]

Report of the Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization to the Tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Ghana, from 2 to 7 September 1991

1. The Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization, composed of Yugoslavia (Chairman), Burundi, Cuba, Egypt,

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* On behalf also of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu, Venezuela and Zambia, has been set up on the basis of the decision of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, with the task of contributing to the carrying out of a United Nations plan of action for the implementation of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

2. The Group decided to focus its activities at this stage on assisting the Secretary-General of the United Nations in preparing the United Nations plan of action to be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session. Following extensive deliberations, the Group is presenting a number of ideas and suggestions for approval by the Tenth Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, at Accra, Ghana, with a view to submitting them to the Secretary-General. In doing so, the members of the Group had in mind that the United Nations action plan should be formulated in such a way as to enjoy the widest possible support of all States Members of the United Nations, while preserving the principles and positions of non-aligned countries regarding decolonization.

3. In order to ensure successful implementation of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries proposes the following ideas and suggestions for the United Nations plan of action:

(a) The ultimate goal of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should be the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples through the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the population of each and all of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. This should be done freely and without outside pressure, in a form reflecting their authentic interests and aspirations, with the United Nations playing an appropriate role;

(b) A comprehensive review of the situation in each of the Territories should be made by the appropriate United Nations organ in order, inter alia, to assess the possibility of organizing referendums on self-determination. Where conditions permit, the referendum should be conducted as soon as possible or, in any event, not later than 31 December 1999, the end of the Decade;

(c) In that context, it would be beneficial if the Secretary-General or his Special Representative visited each of the Territories as early as possible during the Decade and made a report to the General Assembly;

(d) The administering Powers should be urged to take the necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social, cultural and educational advancement of the population of the Territories, thus creating the conditions for their autonomous and independent development and enabling them to exercise the right to self-determination;

(e) The international community, Member States, the whole United Nations system, other governmental and non-governmental organizations should unite their efforts to assist effectively the populations of the Territories and actively participate in the implementation of the United Nations plan of action to be adopted for the Decade;

(f) Concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be worked out, especially in terms of economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment, in the Territories. In this area, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and international financial institutions could play a major role and therefore should be called upon to prepare adequate programmes;

(g) Efficient international assistance should also be provided in upgrading the political awareness of the populations of the Territories of the various options available in the actual exercise of their right to self-determination, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960. In that context, particular emphasis should be placed on the improvement of the educational systems in the Territories, the provision of scholarships and training facilities, the protection and enhancement of the human rights of their populations. The Governments of the Member States as well as the specialized agencies should be actively engaged in this respect;

(h) Member States should be invited to consider adopting at the national level such measures, including legislation, that would:

(i) Discourage all actions and activities, commercial or otherwise, which could be prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(ii) Promote full respect for the human rights of peoples living under foreign domination and facilitate their recourse to judicial proceedings in order to gain economic and social restitution;

(i) The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly have an important role to play in the process of implementation of the action plan for the Decade and therefore Member States should give full support to the activities of the Special Committee and to its current efforts for the improvement, strengthening and rationalization of its work, as well as to the activities of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. In this context, the Special Committee should continue its efforts to send visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(j) It is necessary to improve the cooperation of the administering Powers with the Special Committee. An appeal should be launched to the administering Powers to resume cooperation with and actively involve themselves in the work of the Committee;

(k) The relevant United Nations bodies, particularly the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, should be entrusted with intensifying the dissemination of information on the situation in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as on the Decade itself through special publications on decolonization, public film projections, photo shows, seminars, etc. The necessary resources should be allocated for these purposes in the context of the programme budget exercise undertaken by the pertinent United Nations bodies. Depending on the availability of resources, the Department of Public Information should be encouraged to establish the appropriate correspondent network in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Convening of an international conference on development financing

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1991/274 of 26 July 1991, decided to take note of the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his statement at the opening of the second regular session of 1991 of the Council, on 3 July, that consideration be given to the convening of an international conference on development financing (see E/1991/SR.16). The Council also decided to refer the matter to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for further consideration.

2. The proposal of the Secretary-General is circulated to facilitate such consideration (see annex).

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ANNEX

Peace, security, growth and development: the global need for capital

1. Under its Charter, the United Nations has been entrusted with the responsibility to promote social progress and better standards of living in larger freedom. The work of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, as envisioned in the Charter, cannot be separated from the tasks of the Organization in the domain of peace and security, as underscored in recent years by the emergence of a host of global problems. It has become clear that a viable system of collective security cannot be constructed without a sustained improvement in the human condition.

2. Recent intergovernmental deliberations have emphasized the need to revitalize growth and development and have noted that adequate levels of development finance - both concessional and non-concessional - are crucial elements to achieve this. The Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (resolution S-18/3), adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (resolution 45/199, annex) also emphasized this need.

3. Since the early 1970s, negative external shocks and inadequate domestic policies have produced an economic environment unconducive to capital formation and development in many countries. The deterioration in economic and human conditions in many developing countries have led to war, poverty, health and ecological problems, and the number of refugees and displaced persons has reached overwhelming dimensions. Over 1 billion people now live in absolute poverty in the developing world. About 30 million Africans risk malnutrition and starvation from the famine spreading across Africa. 1/ The needs of a significant number of countries have become larger, not smaller.

4. During the past two years the world has witnessed dramatic political and economic changes. The pressing need to modernize the economies of Central and Eastern Europe, the continuing large requirements of the developing countries, in particular of those dependent on multilateral lending institutions, and the imperative to ensure the survival of our habitat are generating a rapidly increasing demand for financial resources on a global scale. Countries that in the not too distant past were large creditors are now in need of capital. Germany, which before unification was a large capital exporter, is now also involved in financing the economic transformation in Eastern Europe. It has been estimated that the cost of modernizing eastern Germany alone could exceed $300 billion and that the cost of rebuilding Eastern Europe could reach $2 trillion over the next decade. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, two large capital exporters before the Persian Gulf war, now have substantially increased financial requirements and are resorting to borrowing on the capital markets.

5. The new and expanded requirements for capital could affect the developing countries in a particularly acute manner since their relative position in the world economy has been deteriorating for some time. World trade has been growing faster than exports and imports of these countries. While foreign direct investment has quadrupled in the 1980s the share of the developing countries has decreased sharply. Private bank lending to the highly indebted countries practically stopped at the beginning of the debt crisis in 1982. For almost a decade now the indebted countries as a whole have been transformed into capital exporters. A net inflow of resources to the 15 largest indebted countries amounting to $20 billion in 1981 was converted into an outflow of $24 billion in 1983 and followed by large outflows throughout the 1983-1990 period. This has obviously imposed major adjustment in these countries. The accumulated effect has been an ex ante imbalance between savings and investment, that is, a large excess demand for capital.

6. As a result, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that the additional demand for savings might well exceed $100 billion in 1991 and thereafter. Unless far-reaching measures are rapidly implemented, the imbalance will be corrected ex post by an increase in the rate of interest. Higher interest rates would reduce investment and growth everywhere and have a devastating effect on the large number of indebted countries of Latin America, Africa and Eastern Europe.

7. The real challenge ahead is to agree on a strategy to correct the ex ante imbalance between savings and investment and thus allow all countries to carry out and attract the investment necessary to grow, improve the social well-being of their citizens and consolidate pluralistic political systems.

8. Experience indicates that both developed and developing countries have had limited success with supply side measures to increase their savings rate. Given that the supply of savings is rather inelastic, that commercial lending to developing countries is limited to a few countries, that this is also true for direct foreign investment, and that domestic investment and multilateral finance continue to be insufficient, there is a need to identify sources through which the necessary funds can be made available to finance the vastly larger growth and development needs of the world economy.

9. A positive transformation of the world economy requires a concomitant strengthening of multilateral financial institutions. A very significant increase in the financial resources of the IMF, the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the regional development banks and the development funds and agencies of the United Nations is crucial if these institutions are to effectively support structural adjustment, fight poverty, continue to provide concessional assistance to low-income countries, provide financial resources for physical and institutional infrastructure and for debt and debt-service reduction schemes in the developing and Central and Eastern European countries. Such a strengthening would also facilitate the renewal of private lending to and investment in developing countries and those in transition to market economies.

10. If growth and development are to be the first priority for the 1990s, and massive migratory movements are to be avoided, expenditures need to be reorganized in such a way that funds are made available to pursue these goals. Changes in ideology and economic thinking now provide further opportunities to reallocate expenditure from one use to another, thus ensuring that total demand for capital - and hence interest rates - would not be affected.

11. There are two areas that lend themselves readily to freeing resources for more productive use. First, both developed and developing countries could reduce more significantly and more rapidly their military expenditures to release funds for civilian development purposes. It has been estimated that the confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact led, in Europe alone, to annual outlays of $500 to $600 billion in armaments and total expenditure on defence continues to exceed double that amount in developed countries. The developing countries themselves spend close to $200 billion a year in arms and other military expenditures. Total military expenditures absorbed 5 per cent of world resources annually from 1972 to 1988. During this period military expenditure accounted for about 5.5 per cent of developing countries' combined GDP and 20 per cent of central government expenditure. 2/ This amount is of a similar order of magnitude to that of their total expenditure for health and education. The military expenditure of these countries has quintupled in constant dollars between 1960 and 1988, increasing at a rate twice that of income per capita. 3/

12. Second, countries could decrease the amount they spend on protectionist measures. Both developed and developing countries spend an unwarranted amount of resources on account of protectionism and this - in addition to the fiscal expense - creates distortions that lower the level of production, thus leaving less resources available for development purposes. The annual report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on agriculture states that the total cost of supporting agriculture in the 24 member countries of OECD has climbed by 12 per cent to $300 billion in 1990. Consumers bear part of the cost by paying higher prices for agricultural products and also as taxpayers. If the burden of subsidies decreased, more resources would be available for investment and producers would be forced to become more efficient. In addition to the direct effect of reducing the fiscal burden of subsidies, a decrease in these payments would enable developing countries to increase their export earnings, eliminating distortions and promoting growth.

13. It was with these problems and ideas in mind - and the complexity of issues involved in analysing them - that the Secretary-General proposed at the second regular session of 1991 of the Economic and Social Council that the international community consider the convening of an international conference on the financing of development in order to develop a coherent and agreed strategy to do so. Such a conference could initiate its work in the fall of 1992, after the conclusion of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It is suggested that the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund be closely associated with its work.

Notes

1/ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, "Food supply situation and crop prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa", Special report, No. 2 (June 1991).

2/ Hewitt, D. P., "Military expenditure: international comparison of trends", IMF Working Paper, WP/91/54 (May 1991).

3/ Ruth Leger Sivard, World Military and Social Expenditures: 1989 (Washington, D.C.: World Priorities, 1989). Cited in McNamara, R. S., "The post-cold war world and its implications for military expenditures in the developing countries", Address to the World Bank Annual Conference on Development Economics (Washington, D.C., 25 April 1991).

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Forty-sixth session
Agenda item 29
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the United States-Soviet joint statement on Afghanistan passed in Moscow on 13 September 1991 after the talks between United States Secretary of State James A. Baker III, and USSR Foreign Minister Boris D. Pankin (annex I), as well as the text of the commentary on this statement by the United States Secretary of State and the USSR Foreign Minister (annex II).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING
Permanent Representative of
the United States of America
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yuli M. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative of
the Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics to the United Nations

ANNEX I

United States-Soviet joint statement on Afghanistan

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, consistent with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions adopted at the forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions and with their commitment to the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan, recognize the fundamental right of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny free from outside interference. In this regard, they support the statement of the United Nations Secretary-General dated 21 May 1991, and reaffirm the need for a political settlement in Afghanistan that ensures an independent and non-aligned Afghanistan at peace with its neighbours and that establishes a new, broad-based government through an electoral process that respects Afghan political and Islamic traditions. The United States and the USSR agree that a transition period is required to reach these goals.

To this end, they call for and pledge to support a democratic and free electoral process that is not subject to manipulation or interference by anyone. The results of the electoral process must be respected and fully implemented by all. They request the United Nations, with the support of concerned Governments, including those of Islamic countries, to work with the Afghans to convene a credible and impartial transition mechanism whose functions would include directing and managing a credible electoral process fully consistent with these principles. This transition mechanism, working closely with the United Nations and others as necessary, would have independent authority with all powers required to prepare for, conduct and implement the results of this electoral process leading to the establishment of a new government that will have the broad support of the Afghan people. The details of these and other powers and functions would be decided through an intra-Afghan dialogue.

The United States and the USSR agree that a cessation of hostilities is essential for the peaceful conduct of elections during the transition period and for a lasting political settlement. To facilitate this cessation, they agree to discontinue their weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides. They also agree that a cease-fire and a cut-off of weapons deliveries from all other sources should follow this step. They agree further to work towards withdrawal of major weapons systems from Afghanistan.

The United States and the USSR also reiterate their commitment to support an international humanitarian assistance effort to promote the prompt repatriation of refugees and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

To these ends, they reaffirm their willingness to promote in every way possible the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General to contribute in practical ways to the early settlement of this conflict.

ANNEX II

Commentary on the joint Soviet-United States statement on Afghanistan

Today, the USSR and the United States issued a joint statement on Afghanistan specifying agreed approaches of the sides to a political settlement in that country along the lines of the United Nations Secretary-General's statement of 21 May 1991.

Settlement of the issue of "negative symmetry", that is discontinuation of Soviet and United States arms supplies to the conflicting Afghan sides, is one of the crucial elements of this agreement. The USSR and the United States agreed to cut off such supplies beginning 1 January 1992. They further agreed that neither the USSR nor the United States will intensify arms supplies to any Afghan side in the interim. It is also hoped that during the remaining time the issue of the Soviet prisoners of war (POWs) will be settled. The United States pledges its best efforts to resolve this important humanitarian question.

It is also expected that other countries involved in the Afghan conflict should also follow the USSR and the United States in limiting their assistance to Afghanistan to humanitarian assistance only.

We expect that our joint steps will facilitate launching an intra-Afghan negotiating process and should lead to a pause followed by a complete cessation of military operations.

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QUESTION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS
(MALVINAS)

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to convey to Your Excellency the text of the Joint Statement by the British and Argentine Governments issued in London and Buenos Aires on 25 September 1991 (see annex).

We request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) D. H. A. HANNAY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great
Britain and Northern Ireland

(Signed) Jorge VAZQUEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Argentina

ANNEX

Joint Statement by the British and Argentine Governments

Taking into account the results of the Fifth Meeting of the British-Argentine Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs, held in London from 10 to 12 June 1991, the British and Argentine Governments have issued the present Joint Statement.

Both Governments have agreed that the formula on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, recorded in paragraph 2 of the Joint Statement of 19 October 1989, applies to this Joint Statement and its consequences.

Both Governments have agreed to send jointly the present Statement to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for distribution as an official document of the General Assembly, under the agenda item "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)", and of the Security Council. The United Kingdom will transmit this Joint Statement to the Presidency and the Commission of the European Community, and the Government of Argentina will do likewise to the Organization of American States.

Both Governments have agreed that annexes I, II, III and IV to the Joint Statement issued in Madrid on 15 February 1990 will be replaced by the following:

I. INTERIM RECIPROCAL INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION SYSTEM

Taking into account the increase of mutual confidence between the United Kingdom and the Argentine Republic, and in order to progress towards the achievement of a more normal situation in the South-West Atlantic, the System will consist of the following provisions:

1. Direct Communication Link

A. The Direct Communication Link between the respective military authorities will be maintained - under the supervision of both Foreign Ministries - in order to ensure the exchange of information to allow adequate reciprocal knowledge of military activities in the South-West Atlantic.

B. The respective military authorities are:

- British Authority: Commander British Forces Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

- Argentine Naval Authority: Commandante Del Area Naval Austral (Ushuaia).

- Argentine Air Authority: Jefe de la Novena Brigada Aerea (Comodoro Rivadavia).

C. The Direct Radio Link between the respective authorities which includes voice and/or telex transmissions will be maintained. The Link will continue to be manned on a 24-hour basis and will be tested weekly.

D. The Communications Plan between units and stations of the Parties will be maintained, with the addition of an alternative telephone link. The military authorities may coordinate directly any necessary technical arrangements.

2. Confidence-Strengthening Measures

A. The parties will reciprocally provide, through the diplomatic channel, not less than 14 days in advance, written information about movements of 4 or more naval or air units and about exercises involving more than 1,000 troops, when either is carried out within 80 nautical miles of coasts.

B. Reciprocal notification of identity, intended track and purpose will be given, not less than 48 hours in advance, of naval combatant units that intend to approach closer to coasts than 15 nautical miles. These movements will require mutual agreement.

3. Verification

If questions arise concerning the application of the above confidence-strengthening measures, consultations will take place through the Direct Communication Link. If disagreement should occur, the Parties will have recourse to the diplomatic channel.

4. Reciprocal Visits

Reciprocal visits to military bases and naval units may be agreed through the diplomatic channel.

5. Application of International Practice

Naval and air units of the parties will observe the normal procedures to ensure safety when operating in proximity, in particular the provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea and the provisions of Annex VI of the Convention on International Civil Aviation of 1944.

In situations not specifically covered by this System, normal international practice will be applied on a reciprocal basis.

6. Duration

This System will be reviewed at a meeting of the British-Argentine Working Group on South Atlantic Affairs which will take place within one year of the entry into force of this System, on a date to be agreed through the diplomatic channel.

II. MARITIME AND AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE

When communication or coordination is required in relation to maritime and air search and rescue (SAR), the following procedures will apply:

1. The headquarters of the British Forces in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) shall inform the Regional SAR Coordination Centres of the South-West Atlantic Area:

Maritime SAR: Ushuaia Maritime SAR Coordination Centre

Air SAR: Comodoro Rivadavia Air SAR Coordination Centre

2. Maritime SAR operations shall be conducted in accordance with the SAR Manual of the International Maritime Organization and the SAR Manual for Merchant Ships. Air SAR operations shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Annex XII to the Convention on International Civil Aviation and its amendments.

3. In the event that joint participation in a SAR incident becomes necessary, the headquarters of the British forces in the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and the appropriate Argentine SAR Coordination Centre will coordinate their activities.

III. SAFETY OF NAVIGATION

1. The parties will exchange all relevant information so that Argentina, the Regional Coordinator of Navarea VI, as defined by the International Maritime Organization, may issue the appropriate Notices to Mariners for that area.

2. In order to enhance flight safety, the Parties agreed:

A. To facilitate the operation of Argentine Flight Information Centres by supplying the information necessary for Argentina to provide the air traffic control, warning, search and rescue, communication and meteorological services within the Argentine Flight Information Regions (FIR);

B. To exchange information between the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and Comodoro Rivadavia (CRV) Flight Information Centre for identification of aircraft in flight in the FIRs, in particular on flights in the vicinity of coastal areas;

C. To respond positively in an emergency to requests to provide alternative facilities at their airfields for each other's aircraft and aircraft of third parties;

and

D. To exchange aeronautical information about airfields of both Parties (navigation, approach and surface facilities).

IV. TERMINAL CONTROL ZONE

To faciliate air traffic control and services, a Terminal Control Zone (CTR) for Mount Pleasant Airport, within the Comodoro Rivadavia Flight Information Region (FIR), is agreed. The technical aspects are set out in the Letter to Operational Agreement approved today which will be forwarded jointly to ICAO during the current month.

The provisions included in this Joint Statement and in the Letter of Operational Agreement will come into force on 9 October 1991.

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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY AND PEACE INITIATIVES

Letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a Statement of the European Community and its member States on Guatemala, issued on 22 October 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 31.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAIK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on the fifth round of negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Union Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca, issued on 22 October 1991

The European Community and its member States welcome the resumption of negotiations between the Guatemalan Government and the Union Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) and commend the commitment of the parties to achieving a peaceful resolution of their differences. They acknowledge the important contribution to these negotiations of the Guatemalan National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) and of the conciliator and Personal Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General.

The Twelve note that respect for human rights will be a major topic in the present meeting. They welcome this further consideration of the issue of human rights: continuing reports from Guatemala of violations of human rights cause them deep concern.

They urge the parties concerned to take meaningful steps at the present round of negotiations towards the full enjoyment of these rights by all Guatemalans and towards a political resolution of their differences as the only guarantee of peace and future stability.